

BOOK NOTICES

HOWARD GARRETT. 2002. **Howard Garrett's Texas Trees.** (ISBN 0-89123-076-9, hbk.). Taylor Wilson, 1900 West Loop South, Suite 1900, Houston, TX 77027, U.S.A. (Orders: 713-980-1950, fax 713-980-2429, 800-570-0082, www.taylorwilson.com). \$29.95, 253 pp., color throughout, 7" × 10".

Texas is a big state with a wide range of climate, soil and water quality, and knowing when to plant the proper tree is crucial. *Howard Garrett's Texas Trees* is a handy reference for everyone from your basic gardener to degreed botanist. According to Dr. Garrett "This book is about horticultural details, as well as my opinions on weather and how to use the various trees available in Texas."

Everything needed to identify over 100 varieties of Texas trees is here in this one source—along with easy-to-follow directions for selecting, planting, and maintaining your trees. Howard takes a very common sense approach (as with all his books) to planting, propagating and all things trees.

Included in the book is an in-depth Tree Glossary with full details (and great color photos) as well as descriptions of natural habitats, identification information, maintenance, propagation, problems, culture, flowers, fruit, and foliage. Also included is a handy little index of pests, diseases, fungi and organic treatment methods, like the Basic Organic Program, which Garrett developed.

In summary, I would like to recommend adding this book to your library. It's an excellent reference for native and introduced trees to the region, and would be a great reference guide for anyone in the botanical world.—*Asha McElfish, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*

MICHAEL A. ARNOLD. 2002. **Landscape Plants for Texas and Environs, Second Edition.** (ISBN 1-58874-153-2, hbk.). Stipes Publishing L.L.C., 202-204 West University Ave. P.O. Box 526 Champaign, Ill. 61824-0526 (Orders: 217-356-8391, stipes@soltec, www.stipes.com). \$68.00, 1088 pp., line drawings, maps, 8 1/2" × 11".

Dry, but well-researched and to the point is how I would best describe Arnolds newest book, *Landscape Plants for Texas and Environs*. According to the book "The text was developed as a reference for nursery and landscape professionals and as a study aide for students of Texas landscaped plants."

The book probably won't win any design award, as the pages are laid out in a plain black and white blocked format with large line drawings and species descriptions; no color photographs are found in the book except on the covers.

For each species covered it includes: Other Common Names, Family, Cold Hardiness, Foliage, Flower, Fruit, Stem/Bark, Habit, Cultural Requirements, Pathological Problems, Ornamental Diseases, Limitations & Liabilities, Landscape Utilization, Native habitat, and Related Taxa.

Personally I find this book to be lacking in the attention grabbing area of color, but it is easy to read, well-researched, and you can find what you're looking for quickly. Definitely not a book you put on your coffee table to show off, but one you will probably find yourself wanting when researching the Texas flora for landscape plants.—*Asha McElfish, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*